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In re Application of
Kenneth W. Carpenter et al
Application No. 10/788,747
Filed: February 26, 2004
Attorney Docket No. MEDIV2020-2

: DECISION ON PETITION
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6), filed October 31, 2006, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

> **(1)** the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;[1]
> **(2)** the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
> **(3)** a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

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[1] Any nonprovisional application or international application designating the United States of America claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending applications or international applications designating the United States of America must contain or be amended to contain a reference (amendment to the first line of the specification following the title or in an application data sheet (ADS)) to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) or international application number and international filing date filing date and indicating the relationship of the applications. Cross references to other related applications may be made when appropriate (*see* § 1.14).

The instant application was filed on February 26, 2004 and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition.

The reference to the prior-filed application was not included in the manner specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) (i.e., in an ADS or in an amendment to the first sentence following the title of the specification) or filed within the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii).

As to the benefit claim under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6):

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and must be filed during the pendency of the nonprovisional application. In addition, the petition must be accompanied by:

> (1) the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t);
>
> (2) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional; and
>
> (3) the reference to the prior filed provisional application supplied in an application data sheet (ADS)37 CFR 1.76) or as an amendment in the first sentence of the specification following the title. See 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(i). The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The reference to the above-noted, prior-filed provisional applications was not included in the manner specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(i) (i.e., in an ADS or in an amendment to the first sentence following the title of the specification) or filed within the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii).

A reference to add the prior-filed applications on page one following the first sentence of the specification has been included in an amendment filed on October 31, 2006. However, the amendment is not acceptable as drafted since it improperly incorporates by reference the prior-filed Application No. 10/362,848. Petitioner's attention is directed to Dart Industries v. Banner, 636 F.2d 684, 207 USPQ 273 (C.A.D.C. 1980), where the court drew a distinction between a permissible 35 U.S.C. § 120 statement and the impermissible introduction of new matter by way of incorporation by reference in a 35 U.S.C. § 120 statement. The court specifically stated:

> Section 120 merely provides a mechanism whereby an application becomes entitled to benefit of the filing date of an earlier application disclosing the same subject matter. Common subject matter must be disclosed, in both applications, either specifically or by an express incorporation-by-reference of prior disclosed subject matter. Nothing in section 120 itself operates to carry forward any disclosure from an earlier application. In re deSeversky, supra at 674, 177 USPQ at 146-147. Section 120 contains no magical disclosure-augmenting powers able to pierce new matter barriers. It cannot, therefore, "limit" the absolute and express prohibition against new matter contained in section 251.

Accordingly, before the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) can be granted, a substitute amendment deleting the incorporation by reference statement for Application No. 10/362,848 is required.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

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Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3208.

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